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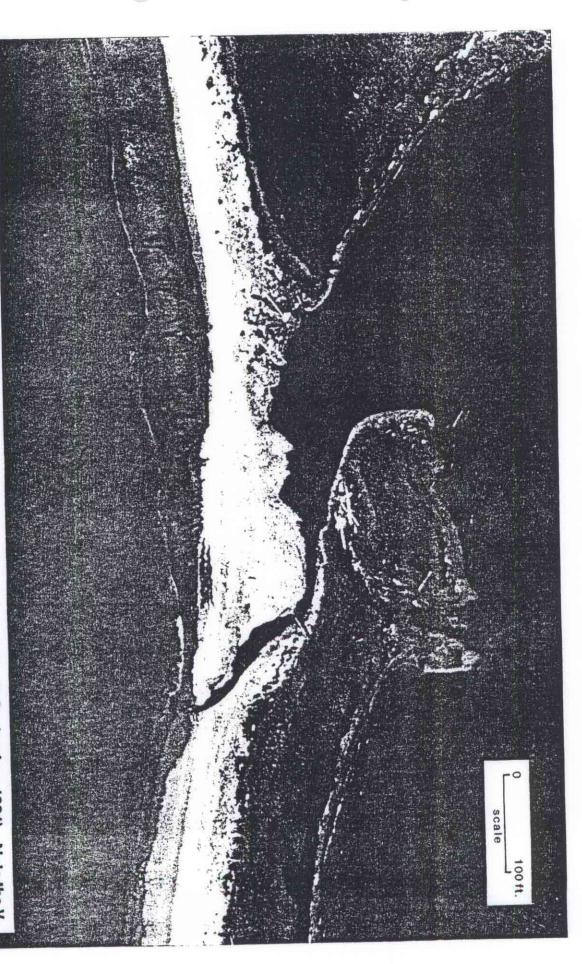
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shaped dark marks in the ocean beach (bottom-left) caused by the lake water leaching through the beach berm. Figure 1: Aerial photograph of the free-flowing outlet stream of Red Cove Lake (9 September 1981). Note the V-

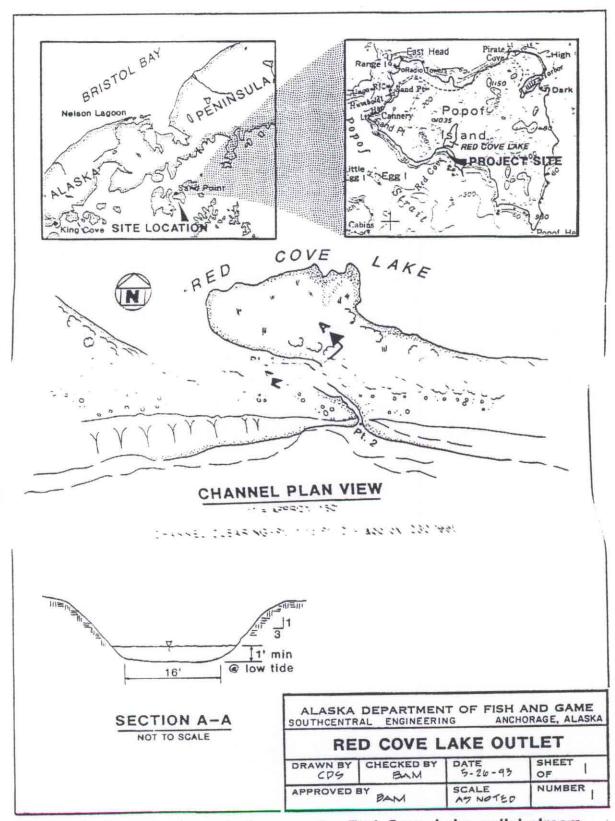


Figure 5: Plan for channel clearance for Red Cove Lake outlet stream.

# Special Report To Aleutians East Borough (Cooperative Agreement No. 93-003)

Sand Point Area Stream Clearance Feasibility Study

> by Lorne E. White Bruce A. McCurtain William J. Hauser

> > Number 135

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division

> Carl L. Rosier Commissioner

Jeffery P. Koenings, Ph.D. Director

P.O. Box 25526 Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526

June 1993

push rocks and gravel from the sea side onto the beach to raise and reinforce the beach berm, especially during a high tide. Because the lakes have relatively small drainage basins, the accumulation of fresh water inside the beach berms may not provide sufficient pressure to maintain the lake outflow during these events. In addition, because of the heavy surf action, the "fines" are sorted and extracted from the beach berm materials. It is evident in Figure 1 that Red Cove Lake drains through the beach berm, even when a free-flowing outlet stream exists.

When an outlet stream does provide an anadromous migration corridor for any of these lakes, it may not function at all tidal stages. Typically, at low tide, the stream channel is poorly defined and the water is very shallow and widely spread over the exposed beach. Juvenile salmon may be stranded and vulnerable to predation. Adults may be able to enter the stream only during high-tide stages.

Finally, if a storm-surge event coincides with a high-tide series, the beach berm is highly susceptible to overtopping, which would allow intrusion by sea water. As a result, the lake water would become brackish and/or the lake basin could include a bottom layer of salt water.

### Red Cove Lake

The Red Cove Lake outlet (Figure 1) on 14 September 1992 was effectively blocked to prevent anadromous salmon migration by large, cobble-size (20-30 cm), smooth surface rocks (Appendix A) (Figures 2, 3, and 4). Water from the lake was percolating through the rocks at several points along the beach area adjacent to the lake. Adult coho salmon were observed jumping in the bay adjacent to the lake, and young salmonid fry were observed in the lake near the former lake outlet. It is apparent however, that under natural conditions, this blockage may be intermittent. Hauser (Appendix A) reported during an earlier investigation that the outlet stream from Red Cove Lake was free-flowing. It was approximately 6-8 in. deep and 10-12 ft. wide. Adult coho salmon were observed in the lake at that time. Also, on 9 September 1981, the outlet stream from Red Cove Lake was well-defined and functional (Figure 1).

It was concluded from the survey that a channel could be recreated by removing the rocks. The recommended method to recreate the channel is with the use of a small backhoe (e.g., Case 580 or equivalent) or small bulldozer (e.g., a Caterpillar D4 or equivalent). The channel should be approximately 70 m (230 ft) long and 5 m (16 ft) wide at the base (with banks sloped at 1:3) to create up to about 0.3 m (1 ft) of water depth flowing in the outlet stream to allow passage by the adult salmon (Figure 5). Because of the open exposure of the site and repeated storms, no structure is recommended to maintain a permanent opening. The site should be surveyed at least

twice a year; once during the spring (early May) migration of salmon smolt out of the system and again during the summer period when adults return. Annual maintenance of the outlet stream could be performed with logistical support based at the City of Sand Point.

Common sense and cost should be the driving factors in those methods employed to clear the system on an annual basis. The location of the channel should, most likely, follow the pathway wherever a natural free-flowing stream did exist. It will be expedient to excavate a shallow channel across the lowest elevation of the beach berm to initiate water movement and to allow the flow of water to expand the newly opened stream channel. As the water flows, the channel will enlarge and the materials returned to the ocean. Machine or hand labor may be required to deepen shallow portions of the stream, particularly during the adult migration.

The intertidal reach cannot be ignored, especially during the smolt migration. If smolts migrate over an intertidal reach where there is no discrete stream channel, they may become stranded or vulnerable to predation.

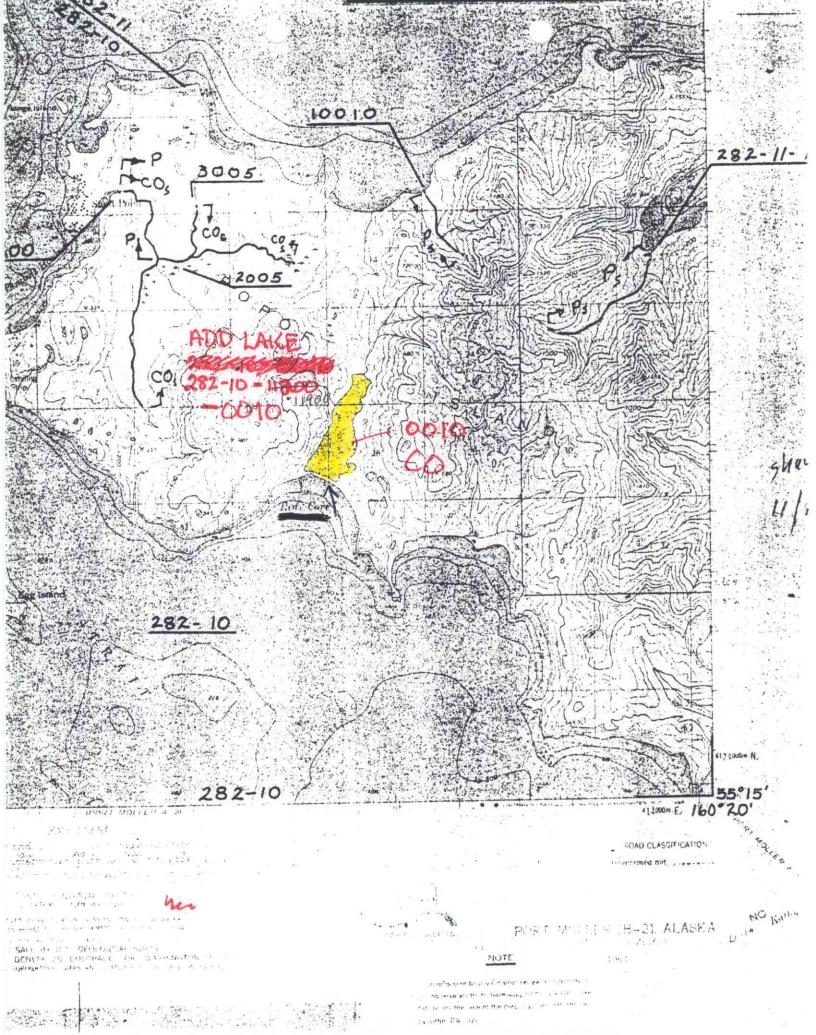
A backhoe is especially practical with a large amount of rubble; however, other innovative, less expensive methods should also be considered. For example, a high pressure water sluice may be effective for removing smaller bed loads and a plow-like device towed by heavy machinery or a powerful boat may be effective to create a shallow channel. Alternatively, it may be easier and safer to anchor an engine-powered capstan on one side of the beach berm as a puller for a plow or scraper device.

Reestablishing salmon runs into the lake may occur naturally with time. Surveys of the system should occur each September to document sockeye and coho salmon spawning events. If natural spawning does not occur within two years, releases of sockeye and coho salmon fry could be made into the lake. Kyle et al. (1993) recommended discontinuing of investigative work for sockeye salmon enhancement at Red Cove Lake because of moderately high salinity. However, there are many Alaskan lakes that have saltwater levels that support sockeye and coho salmon; e.g., John Nelson Lake on Unga Island and Lake Rose Tead on Kodiak Island. It is our conclusion that maintenance of the lake is worthwhile to permit migration of fish.

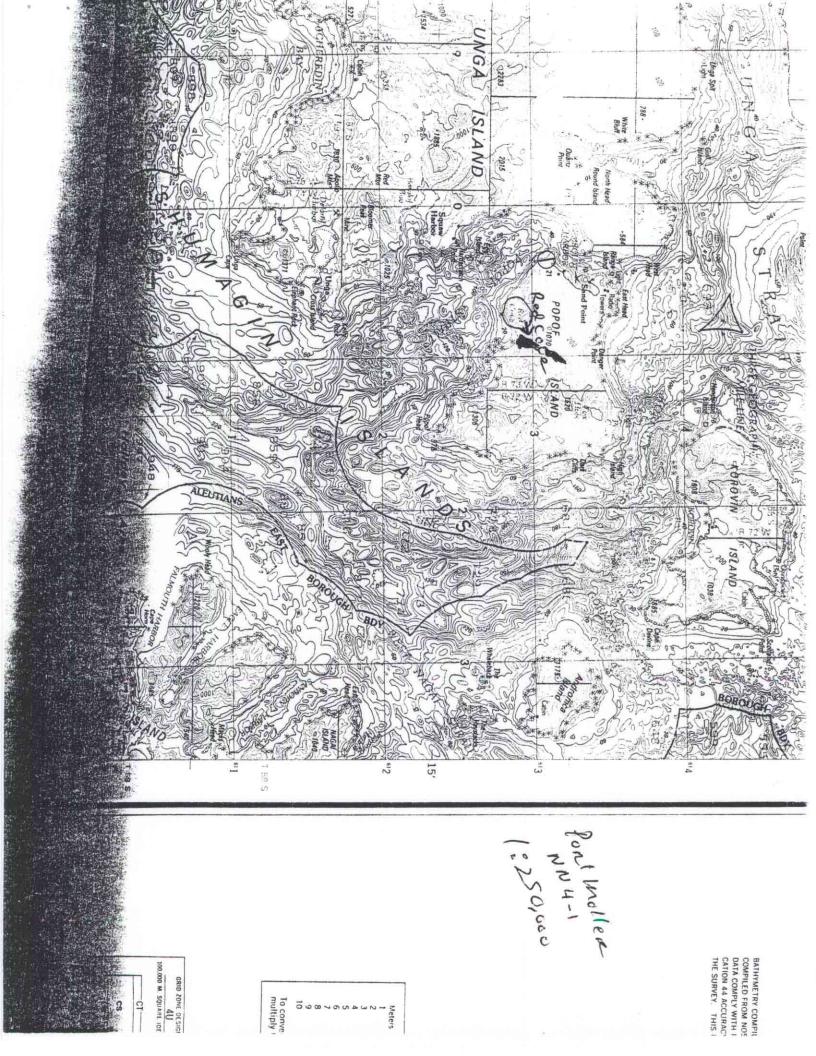
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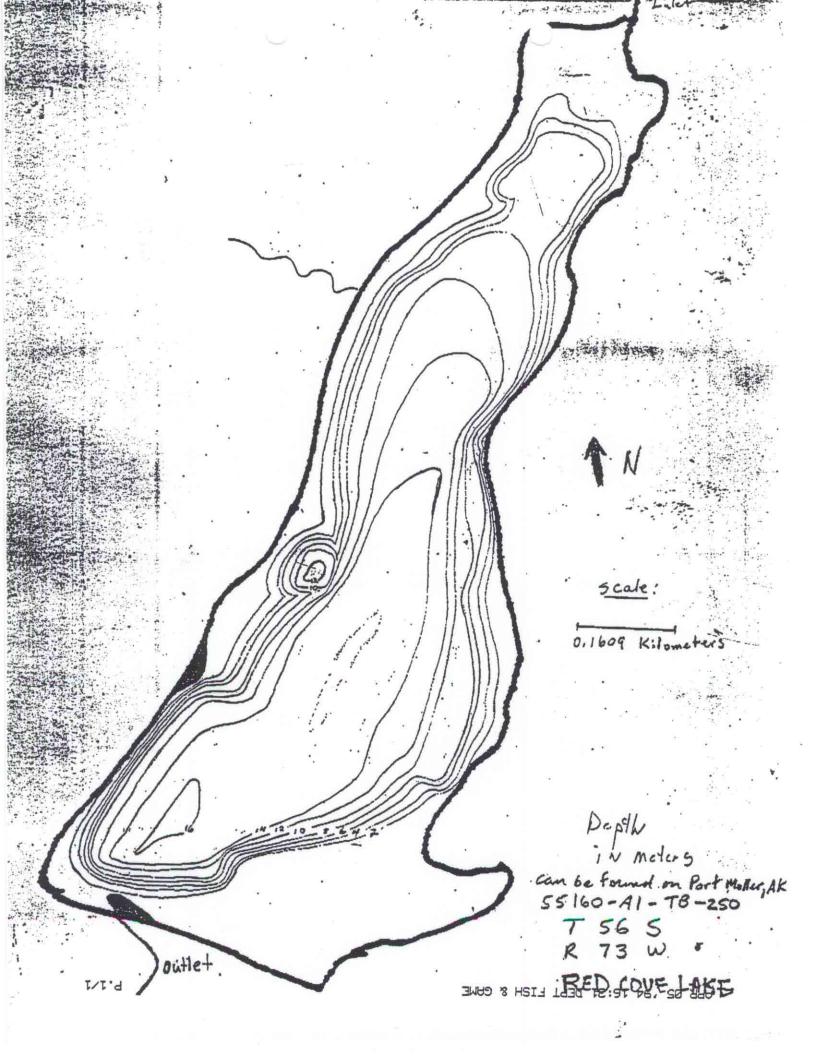
John Nelson Lake (Figure 6) has an outlet directly to salt water on the north side of the lake (Figure 7). The west bank of the outlet is fractured rock but the east bank is made up of accumulated accretion of beach rock and sand. The channel is approximately 15 m (50 ft) wide and 60 m (200 ft) long at low tide (Figure 8). Each

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This certifies that in my best professional judgement and belief the above information is evidence that this waterbody should be included in or deleted from the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes per AS 16.05.870.						
Signature of Area Bio	logist:	1 Ml Cu	llough		Rev. 7/93	

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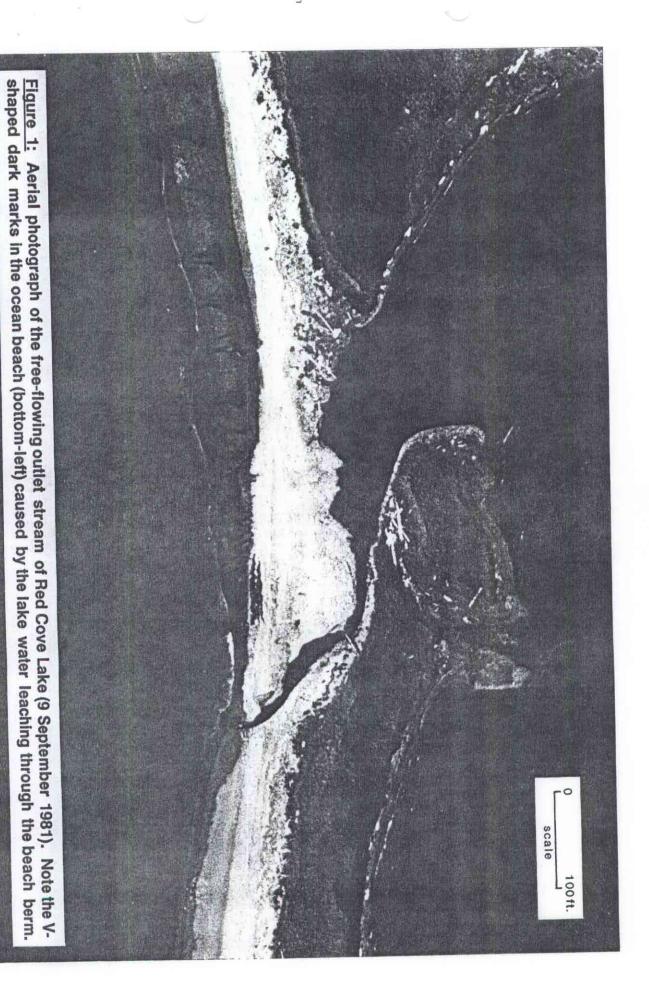
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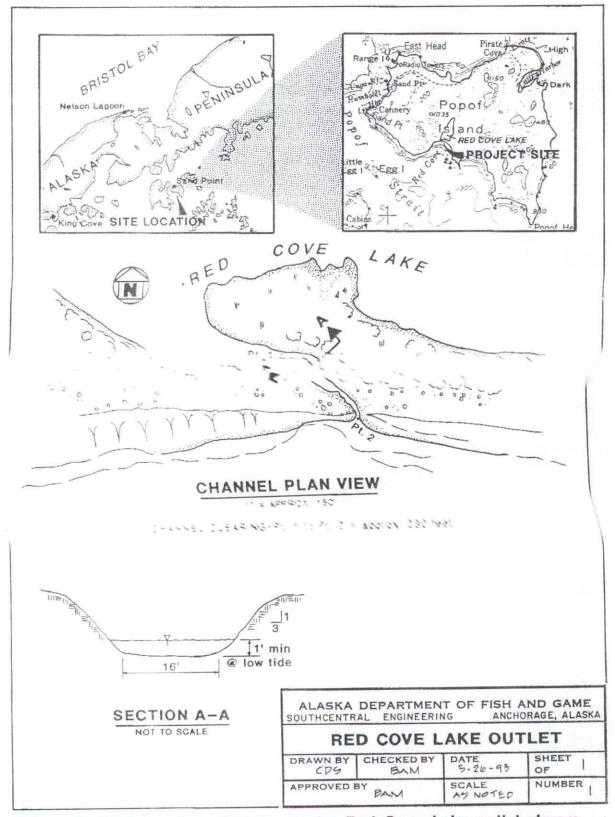


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